

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8109

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3537

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TAGS: RH, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: MUZOREWA RETURNS TO RHODESIA

REF: A) PRETORIA 3404, B) PRETORIA 2137

1. SUMMARY; BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA RETURNED TO RHODESIA JULY 17 AND TOLD A LARGE CROWD OF UANC SUPPORTERS THAT THEY SHOULD REJECT THE "PATRIOTIC FRONT", THAT THE UANC SHOULD BE GIVEN POWER IN RHODESIA BECAUSE OF ITS POPULAR MANDATE, AND THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS MUST BE MET BEFORE HE WOULD COOPERATE IN A TRANSFER OF POWER. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT REACTED BY DISMISSING THE OCCASION AS A "POP FESTIVAL" END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 17, BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, LEADER OF RHODESIA'S UNITED AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL(UANC), MADE HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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THIRD TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO RHODESIA IN TEN MONTHS AND WAS GREETED AT A TOWNSHIP SHOPPING CENTER NEAR SALISBURY BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN 150,000. DECLARING THAT CIVIL WAR WAS IMMINENT UNLESS A SETTLEMENT WAS AGREED UPON SOON, MUZOREWA SAID" I HAVE COME BACK TO STAY AND DEAL POSITIVELY WITH OUR PROBLEMS. I WANT AN IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT--

AND IMMEDIATE END TO THE SUFFERING OF OUR PEOPLE." IN HIS SPEECH HE REPORTEDLY STRESSED THREE THEMES; THAT THE POPULAR FRONT WAS UNREPRESENTATIVE AND SHOULD BE REJECTED BY THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE, THAT THE UANC SHOULD BE GIVEN POWER IN RHODESIA TO CREATE A NON-RACIAL DEMOCRACY, AND THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS MUST BE MET BEFORE HE WOULD COOPERATE IN A TRANSITION OF POWER.

3. MUSORWEA, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, DECRIED THE OAU'S RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A DECISION MADE OUT OF IGNORANCE AS TO WHERE MASS SUPPORT REALLY LIES, HE DESCRIBED ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT CONFERENCE AS A "SHAMEFUL SPECTACLE" ON BEHALF OF " OLD ZAPU DIEHARDS TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE ON A FACTION OF THE OLD ZANU PARTY AND THE MINIONS OF EXTERNAL FORCES UNDER THE SPECIALLY-GROOMED REACTIONARY AGENT JOSHUA NKOMO." HE SAID THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE REJECTED THIS ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A LEADERSHIP THEY DO NOT WANT; AND THE RECENT PATRIOTIC FRONT CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION IN BULAWAYO WAS PROOF THAT ITS SUPPORT WAS PURELY A PRODUCT OF FORCE. MUGABE'S AND NKOMO'S FORCES ARE, HE ALLEGED, ALREADY FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER AND THERE WOULD SOON BE A MASSIVE CIVIL WAR UNLESS IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT WERE REACHED.
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4. AS REGARDS THE TRANSFER OF POWER, MUZOREWA SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH IAN SMITH ONLY IF THE LATTER WERE PREPARED TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE MAJORITY BASED ON A ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE ELECTION. HE SAID HE COULD ACCEPT AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISING FREE ELECTIONS, BUT HE WOULD NEVER DISCUSS " ANY KIND OF SELL-OUT DEAL." REPLYING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION CONCERNING COOPERATION WITH ZANU LEADER NDABANINGI SITHOLE, MUZOREWA CALLED HIM A " POLITICAL OPPORTUNIST WHO HAS LOST HIS WAY." BUT HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALLIANCE- WITH SITHOLE AS A " JUNIOR PARTY."

5. MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY LISTED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS FOR HIS COOPERATION IN A RHODESIAN PEACE SETTLEMENT PLAN: 1) THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND SMITH RECOGNIZE THAT THE UANC HAS A MAJORITY MANDATE; 2) THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE UANC'S AIM OF A NON-RACIAL, DEMOCRATIC, INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WAS ATTAINED; 3) WHITES ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE AND IDENTIFY WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MASSES. (HE SAID HE WOULD

PERSONALLY GUARANTEE INDIVIDUAL WHITES' INTERESTS UNDER AN UANC GOVERNMENT); 4) AN IMMEDIATE AMNESTY FOR GUERRILLAS AND POLITICAL EXILES, THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THE DISMANTLING OF THE PROTECTED VILLAGE SYSTEM; 5) AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE EXECUTING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; 6) IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE AFTER A ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE GENERAL ELECTION. IF THESE CONDITIONS WERE MET, HE SAID, THE GUERRILLAS, THEIR GOALS ATTAINED, WOULD LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND COOPERATE. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT SEE THE MASSES ACCEPTING POLICE POWER UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PRESENT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES DURING A TRANSITION.

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6. NEWS MEDIA REPORTED THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO DISMISSED THE MUZOREWA GATHERING AS A "POP FESTIVAL". JOSIAH CHINAMANO, ZAPU VICE-PRESIDENT IN RHODESIA, CLAIMED HIS ORGANIZATION COULD RAISE JUST AS LARGE A CROWD WHENEVER IT PLEASED, BUT " WE ARE NOT PLAYING TO THE GALLERY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY." BOWDLER

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